

THE DIVISION OF SCIENCE RESOURCES STUDIES

The Division of Science Resources Studies (SRS) fulfills the legislative mandate of the National Science Foundation Act to—

...provide a central clearinghouse for the collection, interpretation, and analysis of data on scientific and engineering resources and to provide a source of information for policy formulation by other agencies of the Federal Government...

To carry out this mandate, SRS designs, supports, and directs about 13 periodic surveys as well as a variety of other data collections and research projects. These surveys yield the materials for SRS staff to compile, analyze, and disseminate quantitative information about domestic and international resources devoted to science, engineering, and technology. Each year SRS produces about 35 publications, which can be roughly divided into the following categories:

- Detailed Statistical Tables reports from the surveys, and associated *Data Briefs*;
- *Issue Briefs* on various topics;
- Periodic “overview” reports, such as the

Science and Engineering Indicators or *National Patterns of R&D Resources*;

- Periodic reports on focused topics such as

Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering and *International Science and Technology Data Update*; and

- Topical reports such as

Undergraduate Origins of Recent Science and Engineering Doctorate Recipients,

Human Resources for Science and Technology: The Asian Region,

Human Resources for Science and Technology: The European Region,

The Science and Technology Resources of Japan: A Comparison with the United States,

Who Is Unemployed? Factors Affecting Unemployed in Science and Engineering, and

Using the Survey of Doctorate Recipients To Measure the Number of Academic Research Personnel.

SRS activities often require close cooperation with other Federal agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health, the National Center for Education Statistics, the Bureau of the Census and Labor Statistics, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the Department of Commerce’s Patent and Trademark Office and International Trade Administration. All of the Federal agencies that perform research and development (R&D) participate in providing data for the SRS *Federal Funds* reports. In addition, SRS staff work closely with universities, industrial firms, professional associations, and international organizations.

Upon completion of the data processing for the major surveys, SRS staff prepares and releases 2- to 4-page *Data Briefs* that summarize and highlight findings in the new data prior to the lengthier publishing process for the more detailed statistical reports and analyses. The data are also provided to users in a variety of formats and customized publications.

Our newest addition of reports, 2- to 4-page *Issue Briefs*, cover new analysis or extract information from our existing reports to inform our readers on important policy-related issues that are current in public debate on science and engineering.

In addition to the SRS surveys, which are designed and managed by SRS staff and conducted primarily by contractors, the Division also supports a small program of extramural research on such topics as methodologies and models for scientific and technological data collection, modeling for the scientific and engineering labor markets, changing patterns of national and international research

performance, and the relationship between science and technological development.

Publications are grouped according to the four programs that produces them, which are listed below:

- Research and Development Statistics Program
- Human Resources Statistics Program
- Science and Engineering Indicators Program
- Integrated Studies Program